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SJSU ERFA Minutes

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty
Association

5-4-2020

SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, May 4, 2020

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU ERFA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 4, 2020, 10:00 am via Zoom

Members Present: Celia Bakke, Carol Christensen, Jill Cody, Barbara Conry, Abdel El-Shaieb, Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Nancie Fimbel, Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno, Tim Hegstrom, Chris Jochim, Don Keesey, Elba Maldonado-Colon, Susan McClory, Bill McCraw, Lucy MCProud, Joan Merdinger, Carmen Sigler, Lonna Smith and Jackie Snell.

1. Call to order. President Chris Jochim called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

2. The Minutes of April 6, 2020 were approved with 1 abstention.

3. President's Remarks.

Chris noted that this is his last meeting as President, and it's not at all what he expected. Expectations about his final semester in FERP have also changed radically. He sorely misses our face-to-face meetings, not to mention the Spring Excursion set for the beginning of April and the Spring Luncheon planned for May 1st. Chris remarked that he had learned to conduct meetings via Zoom and teach online. He hopes for the best with regard to AY 2020-21 meetings under the guidance of President-Elect Tim Hegstrom.

4. Information Items.

a. SJSU summer classes will be taught 100% online. SJSU's situation for Fall 2020 is uncertain. Recent communications from the Provost's Office about instruction in Fall 2020 have been ambiguous, with colleges and departments struggling to make planning choices. The unpredictable effects of Covid-19 and student enrollment trends are both causes of uncertainty. Other information can be read / heard in Susan McClory's Academic Senate Report. It is not known what types of classes can be held on campus. Chris will contact the Biology Department to reserve Duncan Hall 249 for ERFA meetings in 2020 / 2021. Elba suggested that Chris contact the Associate Dean, CHHS to ensure that we retain the ERFA office in MacQuarrie Hall. Related to campus issues Chris mentioned that some faculty were not able to work on their sabbatical projects.

b. Letters have been sent by SJSU-ERFA President to 2019-2020 ERFA RSCA Award recipients. All three have expressed thanks but indicated they will not yet need to change their project content or timeline. Letters to 2018-2019 recipients were unnecessary.

5. Action Items:

There were no action items.

6. Discussion Items:

a. **Do fully retired faculty have access to CSU's Enterprise version of Zoom?** There is a free version of Zoom which is limited to 40 minute sessions. Carol stated that after 40 minutes one can join again for another 40 minutes. For the campus version go to one.SJSU and select the My Video Conferencing (Zoom) application. Login with your SJSU ID and Password. Tim will try to access.

b. **What changes should we anticipate in those serving in Ex-Officio positions in addition to those about which we know, as follows: Beth Von Till on Membership Committee, Jill Cody discontinuing as Consolations officer, Lonna Smith chairing the Activities Committee with Elba joining to help, and Chris replacing Don Keesey as CSU-ERFSA Representative.** A discussion initially addressed the best way to fill the Consolations position. Mary Jo volunteered for this assignment with Jill serving as her mentor. Carmen will not be continuing as a Member-at-Large, but she will consider serving in another

capacity if Tim offers her a position. It was noted that we will not be able to honor our “retirees” with a gathering at this time, but Lonna volunteered to host an event at her home when it was safe to do so.

7. New and Continuing Business:

No new or continuing business.

8. Reports

a. Treasurer. Abdel reported that the balance of the account is \$9,319.10 as of May 1st. He filed our reports with the IRS (Form 990N e-postcard) and the Franchise tax board (Form 199N e-postcard). We are now legal for one more year.

b. Membership. Jackie reported we have had no changes to membership since the last meeting; we are still at 222 members. She mentioned that she is thinking of changing how to do the renewals and will discuss with Joan and then present to the Board. Joan reported that she has been in contact with the Provost's Office to request the names of the invitees to the April 14, 2020 Faculty Retirement Reception. The faculty who were invited to the event began their retirement or FERP in 2019-2020. She will be in touch with Dr. James Lee, Sr. Director of Faculty Affairs to request the emailing of our "Welcome to ERFA" letter to faculty who will be retiring and entering FERP in AY 2020-2021.

c. Activities.

Fall Brunch, October 16, 2020, 10:30 – 1:30, Flames. Lonna voiced her concerns as to the state of the Covid crisis in the Fall. She recommended that we cancel the brunch as she feels that not many would attend even if the restrictions have been relaxed. Perhaps we can host a speaker via Zoom. Nancie stated that she is in favor of this idea as a speaker would help keep the members connected to the organization. Joan suggested a speaker who could address the elections, such as Terry Christensen or Larry Gerston. Bill mentioned that at one time he had approached Garrick Persival, Chair of Political Science, to speak. He volunteered to continue investigating a political science speaker. Joan suggested that idea be forwarded to the program Committee to explore and make a recommendation. Lucy moved, based on Lonna's recommendation, to cancel the brunch. Tim seconded. Approval was unanimous. Lonna moved that we schedule a board meeting for June 1st to address a speaker event. Mary Jo seconded. Board approval was unanimous.

Holiday Event, December 4, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00. Lonna received confirmation that space in the Library has been reserved. She noted that we can make a final decision about the event in the fall.

Tim suggested that the Program Committee be charged to explore more Zoom meetings on different topics. Dolores suggested that that a Town Hall format might be appropriate for a meeting. Another suggestion was to host department reunions.

d. Program. No report.

e. Newsletter Editor. Don announced that publication / distribution of the Newsletter would be postponed until the second week of June so that the discussion at the June Board meeting regarding a fall speaker can be included. The Newsletter will also include the slate of officers which will be considered approved if no objections are received by July 1st. The editors wondered what to do in place of the Travel column. Suggestions: a listing of recommended virtual travel sites, a discussion of book recommendations, an article about migrating to an online only Newsletter. The editors hope that as many members as possible find the online version acceptable. Any who want to continue receiving the paper version would need to contact the editors. Nancie noted that she would continue providing the paper version for distribution to a few individuals on campus.

f. Archivist. No report.

g. Consolations. Jill mentioned that she would mail the remaining cards and stamps and a sample letter to Mary Jo. Jill and Mary Jo will work together on the letter for the passing of Jonathan Lovell. Chris mentioned that it was unfortunate that it was not possible to schedule campus memorials at this time.

h. ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award. Joan announced that the names of the most current awardees are listed on the ERFA website. She will contact the awardees after the semester is over to ask them to create a YouTube video about their projects. The link to these videos will be posted on the ERFA website

i. Biographies. Joan reported that over 300 biographies are now posted on SJSU ScholarWorks. She strongly encouraged the Board members who have not yet participated to take advantage of this opportunity.

j. Film. Don stated that he would welcome suggestions for engaging the film group virtually.

k. Academic Senate. Susan provided her report via email prior to the meeting.

The Academic Senate has been meeting via Zoom based on passage of an emergency resolution allowing a variance from the constitution. There was a meeting on April 20 and then the final meeting will be held on May 11. At that time, officers for the 2020-2021 term will be chosen. Below are some brief points of interest.

1. Admitted Spartan Day (<https://www.sjsu.edu/admittedspartanday/index.php>) went live online last week. Admitted SJSU Students can attend webinars, panels and virtual tours from April 18-25.

2. Graduation dates will remain the same but Commencement may have to be held at a future date.

3. The Coronavirus Higher Education Relief Fund has allotted \$28.7 million to SJSU.

4. Hiring will not be suspended. We have 33 successful, failed, or in process hires out of about 80.

5. Summer Session will be online only. Any face-to-face classes would have to be in late summer if possible.

6. Chancellor White has delayed his retirement in order to handle the COVID-19 response.

In advance of the meeting Susan also shared a copy of the report to the Senate *Improving Implementation of San Jose State University's Retention, Tenure and Promotion Policies* which was approved by the Provost but not signed by the President. She also shared a link to a webpage that lists the policies and amendments awaiting the President's signature, those that are under consideration after being returned by the President and those vetoed by the President.

Chris noted that the campus is concerned about enrollment numbers for 2020/2021 and has extended the student acceptance deadline from May 1 to June 1.

l. Webmaster. Carol thanked Joan for providing the information to update the names of the current ERFA award winners.

m. CSU ERFSA. Joan reported that Chris will take over for Don Keesey as one of our ERFA representatives to CSU ERFSA, and will be appointed to that position by incoming President Hegstrom. There is no information - to date - about a CSU ERFSA meeting in October 2020. We will await information about upcoming meetings, either virtual or in-person from the CSU ERFSA leadership.

n. AROHE. Joan informed the Board that our renewal of \$120 for AROHE membership is due. Seeing no objection from any Board member, ERFA will continue its AROHE membership for 2020-2021. A new benefit will be the opportunity for all ERFA members to receive emails directly from AROHE. Joan will send an email to all ERFA members in July inviting them to opt-in to

receiving information from AROHE, and will then forward that information to AROHE. In the past, only 8 individuals of a member organization were included in information sent from AROHE.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. The next meeting is **June 1, 2020, 10:00 am, via Zoom**

Minutes submitted by Celia Bakke